

**REMARKS**

Claims 11, and 14-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 11 and 26 are amended and claims 12 and 13 are canceled. Support for the amended claims can be found, at least, in original claim 13 and page 11, lines 1-13, page 30, lines 6-25, and page 23, line 8 to page 26, line 5 of the instant application. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 27 and 28. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating, in the April 1, 2008 Advisory Action, that the rejection of claims 11-26 under 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection has been withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 11-19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,482,558 to Watanabe, et al. ("Watanabe") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,488,497 to Buckley et al. ("Buckley"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11 and 26, as amended, now recite a vertical boat for heat treatment having "three or more column members fixed between the top plate and the bottom plate." Also, as amended in claims 11 and 26 each of the three or more column members has a supporting part in the shape of circular arc having a center angle of 20° to 100°. Neither Watanabe nor Buckley disclose a vertical boat for heat treatment having three or more column members. For example, Buckley explicitly discloses a wafer boat having "a pair" of column racks, as shown in Fig. 5 of Buckley. Likewise, as shown in Fig. 6 of Watanabe there is only room provided for two or less columns in Watanabe. In Watanabe, one wafer is supported by only two or less supporting parts (wafer support member 5).

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 and 26, and claims 12-19 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 20-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Watanabe in view of Buckley, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,474,987 to Nakai, et al. ("Nakai"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

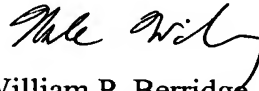
Nakai does not supply the subject matter lacking in Watanabe and Buckley. Thus, Watanabe, Buckley and Nakai do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 11.

Claims 20-25 depend from claim 11. Because claim 11 is now in condition for allowance for the reasons detailed above, claims 20-25 are also now in condition for allowance at least based on their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 8, 2008

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